leagued together to destroy the spiritual by depraving the physical man, could not, in the exercise of their utmost cunning and malignity, compound more subtle or more sure poisons than those elaborated day and night in the vaults, cellars, and receptacles for the dead in this metropolis. In order to render the work of poisoning more sure, myriads of bodies, in every stage of decomposition, have been, and continue to be, stowed away in subterranean receptacles in the streets, lanes, and blind alleys in this metropolis, situated in the very midst of the habitations of two millions and a half of people. . . . . But even in those saturated and disgusting depositories—disgusting both to sight and smell—the dead are not allowed to remain for any length of time. Money is to be procured—space *must* be found for successive new tenants, whilst the late ones, often years before their right of tenancy has expired, are ejected by processes which, though I have elsewhere fully exposed, I will here very briefly indicate. Sometimes the clearing-out is wholesale. At the 'Cross-Bones' burying-ground, in Southwark, the 'Irish Corner' was cleared of 1,000 bodies at one sweep. Generally speaking, the nefarious work goes on more gradually, though not always silently; for during many years, persons, whose necessities have compelled them to reside in the neighbourhood of such places, have been aroused from sleep in the dead of night by the noise occasioned by breaking up coffins recently deposited.

In other localities the remains of the dead have been carted out in loads, and shot down as 'rubbish' upon waste grounds, or used for 'filling in.' Some of our viaducts have been constructed on rubbish obtained by this unchristian process.

The more usual method, however, consists in simply cutting through the half-decomposed bodies and coffins with instruments made for the purpose.

The grave is dug *through* the corpses of the predeceased. This horrible violation of the dead body takes place more or less in all the London graveyards, and often gives rise to the most distressing scenes. The ends of justice have been defeated by it, the coroner being unable to find a recently-interred body; while, on the contrary, relatives and friends have found on the surface, or have witnessed the exposure in the so-called grave, of portions of the bodies of those whom, but a short time previously, they had followed in sorrow to their 'last home.' Other circumstances prove that the violation is systematic—constant. The coffin-wood often serves as fuel for, and is given away to, the poor in large quantities by grave-yard officials; and from the horrible stench which sometimes accompanies the combustion, there is no doubt that *fire* is one of the means employed for effectually removing incumbrances. In one notorious place, indeed, the fire was kept up with very brief and accidental interruptions—day and night—for more than a quarter of a century. Each man's coffin was employed to consume the contents of his neighbour's. A minor degree of violation consists in clearing out what are called 'bone-holes.' The fleshy portion of the human body, or the greater part thereof, is, as I have proved, rapidly destroyed by artificial agencies, after which, in some instances, the bones are disposed of to 'bone-crushers,' or stowed away in large pits.

The latter are evacuated from time to time. An eye-witness counted 500 skulls, which were thus 'cleared out' in a single day.

Every sense of religion, as well as of decency, seems extinct in the persons engaged in this degrading occupation. They often assume the outer garb of clergymen, and 'perform' the funeral service—thus outraging religion, and collecting money under false pretences. A traffic in second-hand wooden coffins, coffin handles, plates, cloth, &c. is often carried on by those to whom the care of the receptacles for the dead is intrusted, under the present system. Nay, more, the leaden coffins of the more wealthy classes have not escaped. In one memorable case it was proved that ten tons of lead from the vaults of a certain church had been sold, and the proceeds handed over to the churchwardens. How low must moral feeling have fallen when such conduct remains unreproved!

Finally, a strong suspicion exists that in many cases the dead never reach their last home. This must be considered as the *acme* of the system. It saves not only the cost of interment, but it prevents the necessity of 'clearing out.'"

Cholera, typhus fever, consumptions, apoplexies, sudden deaths, measles, scarlet fevers, small-pox, and last, though most important of all, perhaps, that slower poisoning which lowers the vitality and impairs the stamina of the entire nation,—such are the fruits reaped from sowing in corruption such as this. That the plague in Egypt uniformly arises first in the close vicinity of the graveyards of the towns, has been fully established. And can we wonder that disease and pestilence are engendered and life destroyed by noxious emanations such as these? "We make for ourselves the poison which we breathe: in our perverse blindness, we sow decay, and we reap death." Nay, to complete the circle of iniquity, we sow death, and reap decay,—we infuse a leaven of mortality in the midst of the mortal mass, and leaven the mass of mortals slowly but surely thereby into masses of mortality.

In order to put an end at once and for ever to all this criminal and most fatal and reckless fatuity and abomination, Mr. Walker proposes—

"1. That a general system of extramural sepulture shall be forthwith organized throughout Great Britain; and that the management be placed under the municipal authorities, or committees chosen by the rate-payers, controlled by a superintending authority appointed by Government.

2. That medical men be appointed to fill the ancient office of 'searcher,' and that no body be removed for interment without a certificate of the cause and fact of death.

3. That interment of the dead during the summer quarters within a period of — days be compulsory.

4. That for London, common (and, if possible, Crown) lands in the neighbourhood of railways should be appropriated for GENERAL CEMETERIAL purposes—sidings or branch lines conveying the funeral trains into the ground itself, as proposed by me to the Select Committee on Interment in Towns in 1842.

5. That the afternoons of Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday in each week be appropriated for the purpose. That on the alternate days, special trains may, if required, be provided.

6. That a central administration be appointed to undertake every service (except the religious) connected with the burial of the dead *at fixed and specified charges*, which latter, however, shall not exceed certain *maxima* laid down therein.

7. That the duty of providing for the interment of the dead be exclusively confined to the aforementioned administration."

Mr. Walker's pamphlet comes opportunely, and it will serve to strengthen the strong claim he has on the gratitude of his fellow-citizens.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Yarmouth.—It is proposed to erect a new jetty or pier, to extend 800 feet from the sea wall of the Esplanade, opposite the Victoria Hotel, to be 26 feet wide, and made convenient for safe debarkation. The estimated cost is 10,000*l.* to be raised in 1,000 10*l.* shares, under an Act of Parliament to be applied for.

Kingham.—A monument has been raised to the memory of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Davis, 52nd regiment, at Kingham Church, Oxfordshire, representing a soldier of the regiment mourning over his departed commander.

Reading.—New schools (St. Mary's national) erected in Hosier-street, were opened on Thursday in last week. The building, which has been designed by Mr. J. B. Clacy, architect, comprises school-rooms for boys and girls, with class-room to each; an infant school, and dwelling for master and mistress. The schools for boys and girls are divided by moveable partitions. The style is Early Pointed, of the simplest character. The walls are of flint with Bath stone angles. A staircase tower, of chequered work, between the infant school and dwelling-house serves to identify the building with the ancient parish church, the tower of which is of chequer work. Internally, the roofs are open. The boys' and girls' schools are partly lighted from the roof through sheets of rough glass, laid level across the upper part of the roof between the rafters. The ventilation has been studied, fresh air being admitted through valved ventilators around the base of the rooms, the vitiated air escaping at the open space of roof above the glass. The contracts were taken by Messrs. Wheeler and Biggs, at 1,412*l.* and, according to the *Reading Mercury*, there is a considerable deficit still to be met.

Margate.—The sappers and miners are here making a survey for the drainage of the town. They have a crow's nest on the top of Trinity Church. The plans for the new jetty are shortly expected.

Ramsgate.—Extensive alterations have recently been made in the works of the Ramsgate Water Company, at South Wood, and additions made to ensure a good supply to the increased consumption.——The local commissioners of pavement have been paying attention to the lettering of the streets. The promenade has been improved. A high iron fence on a dwarf wall has been erected at the end nearest the Paragon, which has an approach to it from the road, and egress for Bath chairs through a pair of light iron gates.

Isle of Wight.—A fort is to be erected in the Isle of Wight, for the purpose of defending the Needles passage, at an outlay of 40,000*l.* The works at Hurst Castle are to be repaired.

Bilston.—The inhabitants of this town are determined not to be behind in forming a joint-stock company with the intention of erecting public baths and wash-houses. In connection therewith it is also proposed to erect a town-hall and reading-rooms.

Bridgewater.—The restoration of St. Mary's church is now nearly completed. On application to the council to vote a sum of 15*l.* to put the carved screen and sittings in the Mayor's aisle into a state of repair, the request was refused.

Swansea.—Mr. Pickering, the contractor, is completing arrangements for progressing with the new docks here. Most of the plant has arrived from Birkenhead, and the workshops are being erected. On Monday week, the foundation-stone of a new dry dock, to be called the "Phœnix Dock," was laid nearly opposite the Swansea pottery.

Cardiff.—On Thursday, last week, a meeting was called very suddenly, to consider the drainage of this town. It seems, according to our correspondent, that there are two or three gentlemen in the board of health who evidently do not belong to the progress party, and are very anxious to have the town drained by the old brick drains. The idea of 9 inch pipes seems to confuse them. There was much said at this meeting against Mr. Rammell which appeared quite uncalled for, and proved to be of no avail, as the local board have, since this meeting, confirmed their decision, stated some weeks since in THE BUILDER, in favour of Mr. Rammell's plan.

Holyhead.—In a recent quarrying explosion at Holyhead, five tons of gunpowder were used to detach a part of the mountain to form a portion of the new breakwater. The shot was successful, though, as in similar instances, the noise was not so great as might have been anticipated. A small cottage roof at some distance was protected with thick balks of timber placed over it by the superintendent of the works, Mr. Radford, to satisfy the proprietor, who was afraid of destruction to his slender domicile.

Chester.—The people of Chester appear to be much in the same predicament as the metropolitans are in with regard to their river, their drainage, and their water-supply. They are now in a ferment, and not unreasonably, as the local *Chronicle* observes, at a proposal to discharge the sewerage of Boughton into the Dee below the causeway. They seem to have had Mr. Moffat down last year to report on the solidification of the sewage matter of the town; but the town council did not consider the plan feasible. The *Chronicle* thinks that surely a main drain could be so formed as only to discharge its contents during ebb tide, when the current would sweep away all impurities; and that if the present water company cannot devise a plan of water supply from sources above or beyond the tidal and the sewage influences, perhaps a new company might succeed in giving the citizens a purer supply.

Liverpool.—The dock trustees, says the *Liverpool Times*, have decided to erect the warehouses around the Stanley Dock with vaults, but not to raise them a story higher. The additional cost of the vaults for one stack would be 15,000*l.* and the cost of altering the heights of the warehouses would be 2,200*l.* increasing the entire cost of the warehouses, north and south stacks, to 162,378*l.*——The first contract for putting in the main pipes for conveying water from Rivington to Liverpool

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